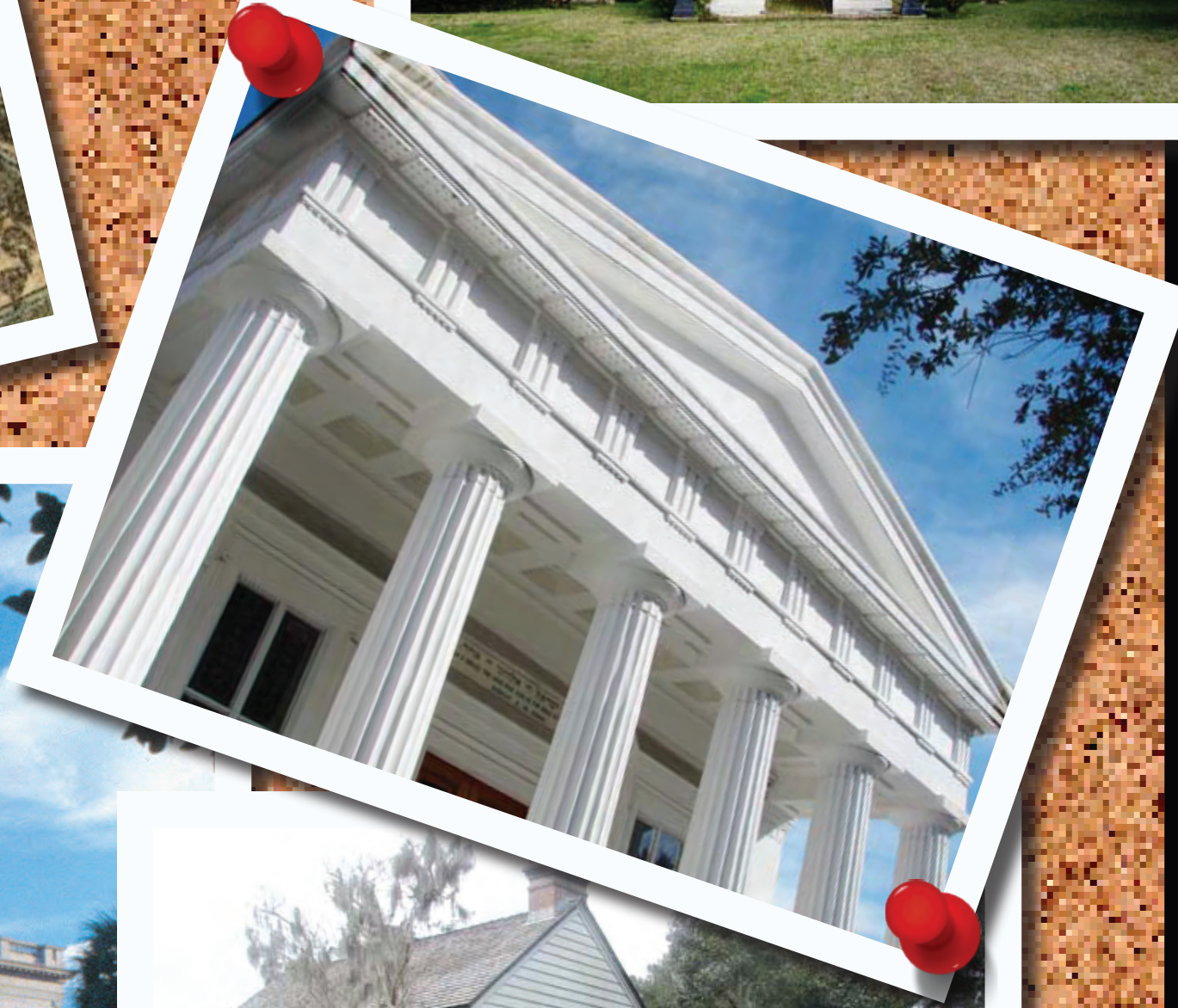




South Carolina's
National Historic
Landmarks



South Carolina Preservation Month
May 2011





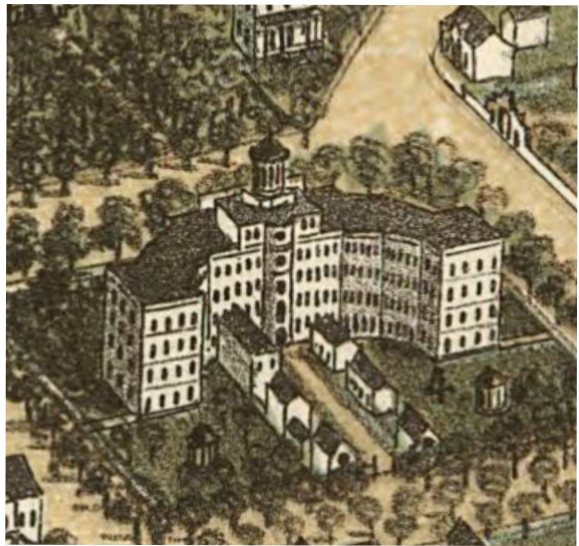
Drayton Hall is without question one of the finest of all surviving plantation houses in America. Its early date, 1738-42, makes its architectural sophistication all the more remarkable. It is far in advance of the great Virginia Georgian plantation houses for which those of South Carolina have a natural affinity. Because Drayton Hall has been barely touched with “improvement” in the ensuing 200 years, it remains for us one of the most treasured of eighteenth century structures. John Drayton, a member of the King’s Council, acquired the land on which Drayton Hall was built in 1738. Perhaps because of their relatively comfortable position in South Carolina society at this early date, the Drayton’s were able to invest in the house a degree of architectural elaboration very rare in America in the first half of the eighteenth century. Listed in the National Register October 15, 1966; Designated a National Historic Landmark October 9, 1960.



Built in 1843, the Robert Smalls House is located in the City of Beaufort. Robert Smalls, the hero of the Civil War, state legislator, U.S. Congressman from South Carolina during Reconstruction, and customs collector for the Port of Beaufort, was born into slavery in 1839. He lived in the John McKee household until 1851, when he was hired out by his master to Charleston, where he lived until the outbreak of the Civil War. During the war, he distinguished himself first as the “abductor” of the boat Planter, an incident which catapulted him to national fame and attention, and as a guide for the Union ships attacking the sea islands. He was elected first to the state Constitutional Convention of 1868, the state assembly (1868-1870), and then the state senate (1870-1874). He continued his fight here to use legislation to buttress the rights recently gained by the freedmen. Smalls purchased the house in which he had lived as a slave at a tax sale in 1863. He and his descendants occupied the property for approximately ninety years. The original structure has been considerably altered. Listed in the National Register May 30, 1974; Designated a National Historic Landmark May 30, 1974.



Significant as a Revolutionary War campsite, Snow’s Island served as headquarters, supply depot, and retreat for General Francis Marion’s partisan forces during the crucial winter of 1780-81. Snow’s Island is the most famous of wilderness retreats of General Marion, the man whose hit-and-run tactics and crafty elusiveness earned him the nickname “Swamp Fox.” The ideal location of Snow’s Island afforded the launching of numerous harassment and interception raids on British outposts as well as a major assault upon the Georgetown garrison conducted by the combined forces of General Marion and Colonel “Light Horse” Harry Lee on January 25, 1781. In late March of 1781, while Marion repelled and pursued one British attack force, another under Colonel Doyle penetrated to Snow’s Island and destroyed the camp. Marion never used Snow’s Island again after Doyle’s raid. Listed in the National Register March 14, 1973; Designated a National Historic Landmark December 2, 1974.



Designed by native South Carolina architect Robert Mills, the ca. 1827 SC State Hospital Mills Building (South Carolina Lunatic Asylum) is considered to be an example of Mills at his best, distinctive in its boldness of conception, its inventive quality, its simplicity and power. It is a structure of national importance in the architectural development of America. It is also the oldest structure in the United States continuously used as a mental hospital. The hospital was among the first authorized, and the third completed, mental hospitals in America built with public funds. The State Hospital design reflects reforms that were far ahead of its day. Fireproofing of the building was also uncommon and an area in which Mills was a leader. The State Hospital continues an existence of beauty and usefulness; an enduring monument to the dedication of the founders and to the master architect, Robert Mills. Listed in the National Register June 5, 1970; Designated a National Historic Landmark November 7, 1973. Photo: Bird’s Eye View of the City of Columbia, SC 1872 by C. Drie



The Graniteville Historic District consists of the Graniteville Canal, which dates to 1846; the original two and one-half story Graniteville Mill constructed of locally quarried granite and completed in 1849; twenty-six original workers’ houses in Early Gothic Revival style, most of whose exteriors are virtually unaltered; nine other units of early mill housing; Graniteville Academy where operatives children were educated at company expense; and the Early Gothic Revival St. John’s Methodist Church, designed by Charleston architect E.B. White and completed in 1849. While building the mill, Gregg supervised construction of a company town, thus bringing into existence the first typical southern mill village. Listed in the National Register June 2, 1978; Designated a National Historic Landmark June 2, 1978.



Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim (Beth Elohim Synagogue) possesses national significance as the birthplace, in 1824, of Reform Judaism in America. Originated by German Jews in the early 1800s, the Reform Movement spread rapidly through central Europe and to the United States, where it led to radical changes in Jewish doctrine during the remainder of the 19th century. The influx of German, Austrian, and Bavarian Jews that began in 1836 and continued into the 1890s was a major factor in the success of American Reform. Congregation Beth Elohim, established in 1749, is the nation’s fourth oldest Jewish community. Its present house of worship, a fine Greek Revival structure, erected in 1840, is the second oldest synagogue extant in the country and the oldest in continuous use. Listed in the National Register April 4, 1978; Designated a National Historic Landmark June 19, 1980.



(Santa Elena; San Felipe; San Marcos; Ribaut Monument) This site represents one of the most important historical sites in South Carolina. Here in a relatively small and fairly undisturbed and protected area are the localities of three well-dated fort sites (two Spanish of 1566 and 1577 and one French of 1562) and two town sites, one at least of considerable size and with a time span of ten years. Not only does this represent the area of first European occupation, but the only French and Spanish attempts at occupation in South Carolina. The first historically reported structure was that of the 1562 French settlement, Charles Forte, established by Jean Ribaut. In 1566 the Spanish built a fort, named San Felipe, near the location of Charles Forte. It was manned until 1576 when an Indian uprising forced the Spanish to bury the heavier cannon and leave. Listed in the National Register August 7, 1974; Designated a National Historic Landmark January 3, 2001.



The Exchange and Provost Building, built 1767-1771, served during the last quarter of the 18th century as a customhouse, public market, public meeting place, military prison and barracks. The British used the exchange as a barracks and military prison from 1780 to 1782, during the American Revolution. President George Washington was welcomed on the steps of this building when he visited Charleston on his southern tour of 1791. The structure was badly damaged by Union artillery fire during the Civil War and again by the great earthquake of 1886. Repaired after each occasion the Exchange was used for Federal office purposes until 1913 when an act of Congress deeded the building to the Daughters of the American Revolution in and of the State of South Carolina to be preserved by them as a historical monument. Listed in the National Register December 17, 1969; Designated a National Historic Landmark November 7, 1973.



(Charles Pinckney National Historic Site) Snee Farm was purchased about 1754 by Colonel Charles Pinckney, a wealthy lawyer and planter. Upon his death in 1782, the farm then passed to his son, Charles, author of the “Pinckney draught” and signer of the Constitution, four time Governor of South Carolina, U.S. Senator and Minister to Spain, 1801-1805. The farm remained the property of Pinckney until his death in 1824. (Note: research since the time of nomination has established that Pinckney sold Snee Farm in 1817 to satisfy his debts. The current main house at Snee Farm was built ca. 1828, replacing the plantation house extant during Pinckney’s ownership.) The cottage was restored in 1936. Listed in the National Register April 13, 1973; Designated a National Historic Landmark November 7, 1973.



The Miles Brewton House (ca. 1765-1769) is one of the most distinguished town houses of the American colonial period, and the most outstanding of Charleston’s “double houses.” It is one of the few Palladian buildings undertaken in the South by direct influence of the Italian himself. The interiors of the house are of the finest quality, and together with its Palladian authenticity, make it one of America’s most distinguished late-Georgian feats of architecture. Directly behind the house, the formal garden of the eighteenth century retains its layout, and against the back wall, about 500 feet west of King St., stand four stone columns which are said to have been part of the original boat landing when the property extended through to Legare Street. Listed in the National Register October 15, 1966; Designated a National Historic Landmark October 9, 1960.



(Old Ninety Six & Star Fort) The historic district of Ninety Six National Historic Site contains numerous historical features associated with the economic and social development of the colonial South Carolina back country. Native Americans, colonial frontiersmen, and loyalists to the British crown have used this landmark site throughout state history. The area encompassed by the district also figured prominently during the American Revolutionary War, first as the focal point of regional political dissension and later as the scene of a lengthy siege that epitomized the strategy and determination of Major General Nathaniel Greene during the Southern Campaign of the War. Listed in the National Register December 3, 1969; Designated a National Historic Landmark November 7, 1973



(South Carolina State House) Vienna-born architect John Niernsee began the structure in 1851, but the Civil War and post-war poverty slowed progress on the building. For unknown reasons, the building was spared in General W. T. Sherman’s 1865 burning of Columbia, though the structure did suffer damage from shelling and burning of the nearby old statehouse. Following the Civil War, between 1869 and 1874, the only state legislature in American history with an African American majority sat here. From 1888 to 1891, Niernsee’s son, Frank McHenry Niernsee, served as architect and much of the interior work was completed. In 1900 Frank Milburn served briefly as architect, but was replaced in 1905 by Charles Coker Wilson who finally finished the exterior in 1907. Listed in the National Register June 5, 1970; Designated a National Historic Landmark May 11, 1976



The SC State Historic Preservation Office encourages and facilitates the responsible stewardship of South Carolina’s irreplaceable historic and prehistoric places.

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